

**Department of Transportation  
Public Information Meeting Summary  
Project No. 63-633  
Albany Avenue (Route 44) Operational,  
Safety, and Streetscape Improvements**

**City of Hartford  
Wednesday, April 22, 2015**

**Present:**

VHB Inc.

Stephen O'Neil, P.E. – Director  
Jeffrey Thereault, P.E. – Project Manager  
Christopher Beaulieu, P.E. – Senior Project Engineer  
Charlie Baker – Design Engineer

Connecticut Department of Transportation

*Highway Design:*

William Britnell, P.E. – Principal Engineer  
Scott Bushee, P.E. – Project Manager  
Vitalij Staroverov – Project Engineer  
Nicholas Ivanoff – Transportation Engineer

*Office of Rights of Way:*

Douglas Hummel – Property Agent

*Office of the Commissioner*

Randal Davis – Executive Assistant

City of Hartford

Approximately 20 residents were present, including representatives of neighborhood groups.

**Presentation:** At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Stephen O'Neil began the presentation by explaining that the project's purpose is to improve operation and safety along Albany Avenue. A strong consideration for pedestrian safety is included in the design. The project limits on Route 44 are from Homestead Avenue/Westbourne Parkway to Bedford Street.

The presentation covered the conversion of one of the two eastbound through lanes to a center left-turn lane, traffic calming measures, street lighting and sidewalk improvements, changes to one way traffic circulation patterns, the installation and replacement of eleven traffic signals, and the installation of curb bumpouts. Streetscape components including street trees, brick pavers, stamped asphalt, and illumination will provide improved aesthetics and support improvement in pedestrian safety.

The project right of way requirements were discussed including the need for partial acquisitions and rights of entry to reconstruct sidewalks and driveways on private properties.

**Public Comments and Questions:** The following questions and comments were made, as summarized below:

- ⇒ How much private property will be impacted, will there be any total acquisitions? – There are no total property acquisitions proposed, only partial acquisitions. The acquisition of property is typically required on the corners of intersections where realignment of the side street is planned. Easements and rights to build sidewalks may be needed.
- ⇒ Neighborhood groups have agreed to the removal of concrete planters along Albany Avenue, what will they be replaced with? – The existing planters are 12 inch concrete planters; they will be replaced with an 8 inch granite faced planters. The planters help to define the sidewalk and to deter vehicles from driving onto the pedestrian corridor.
- ⇒ Have drainage swales and other types of green infrastructure been considered for inclusion in this project? – The surrounding grates of the street trees will allow water to pass and permeate into the ground. Planter beds also offer the same function.
- ⇒ Is it possible to add bike lanes to Albany Avenue, or use “Sharrows?” – The addition of bike lanes was considered for the project; however, on street parking is a high priority for the community and business owners, as are the sidewalk areas in front of the businesses. The addition of bike lanes would not be possible without the loss of parking and or a reduction in sidewalk space. The use of Sharrows will be investigated. However, the ongoing maintenance of the markings would have to be discussed.

The question and answer session was concluded at approximately 7:30 p.m.